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PULSATING PREMIERE ISSUE!

QUASAR

TM

**THE COSMIC AVENGER--
NOW IN HIS OWN BOOK!**



**FEATURING...
THE UNTOLD
ORIGIN OF
QUASAR!**

STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE ORIGIN OF

QUASAR

"THE KID IN THE CAPE AND COSTUME IS THE ONLY SON OF THE FAMOUS GERMAN ROCKET SCIENTIST WHO DEFECTED TO THE WEST IN THE 30'S, HORACE GRASSHEID..."

"HIS NAME'S ROBERT GRAYSON, BUT HE WAS BETTER KNOWN AS MARVEL BOY. FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HE WAS THE FIRST GUY TO EVER WEAR THOSE FUNKY GLOWING BRACELETS WE'RE ALL INTERESTED IN."

"HE USED 'EM PRIMARILY FOR BLINDIN' HIS OPPONENTS IN A ONE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST CRIMINALS AND COMMUNISTS BACK IN THE EARLY 50'S."

"GOTTA ADMIRE THE KID'S SPUNK, HUH?"

"WHERE HE GOT THOSE FANCY WRISTBANDS WE DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S RUMORED THAT GRAYSON AND HIS DAD SPENT SOME TIME ON A ROCKET IN DEEP SPACE."

THE PRICE OF POWER!

MARK • PAUL • DANNY • JANICE • PAUL • HOWARD • TOM
GRUENWALD RYAN BULANADI CHIANG BECTON MACKIE DEFALCO
STORY BREAKDOWNS FINISHES LETTERS COLORS EDITS CHIEF

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"SOME TIME BEFORE THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** FIRST CAME ON THE SCENE, GRAYSON DISAPPEARED. NO ONE HEARD A **PEEP** FROM HIM FOR WELL OVER A **DECADE**--



"-- AND WHEN HE POPPED UP AGAIN, HE WAS MISSIN' A FEW **MARBLES**.

"THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** HADDA STEP IN TO COOL HIS **RAMPAGE**.

"SOMEWHERE IN THAT TIME, HE LEARNED TO TURN UP THE **POWER** ON THOSE **WRIST-GIZMOS**, AN' INSTEAD A JUST USIN' 'EM TO SHOOT **BLINDIN' LIGHT**--



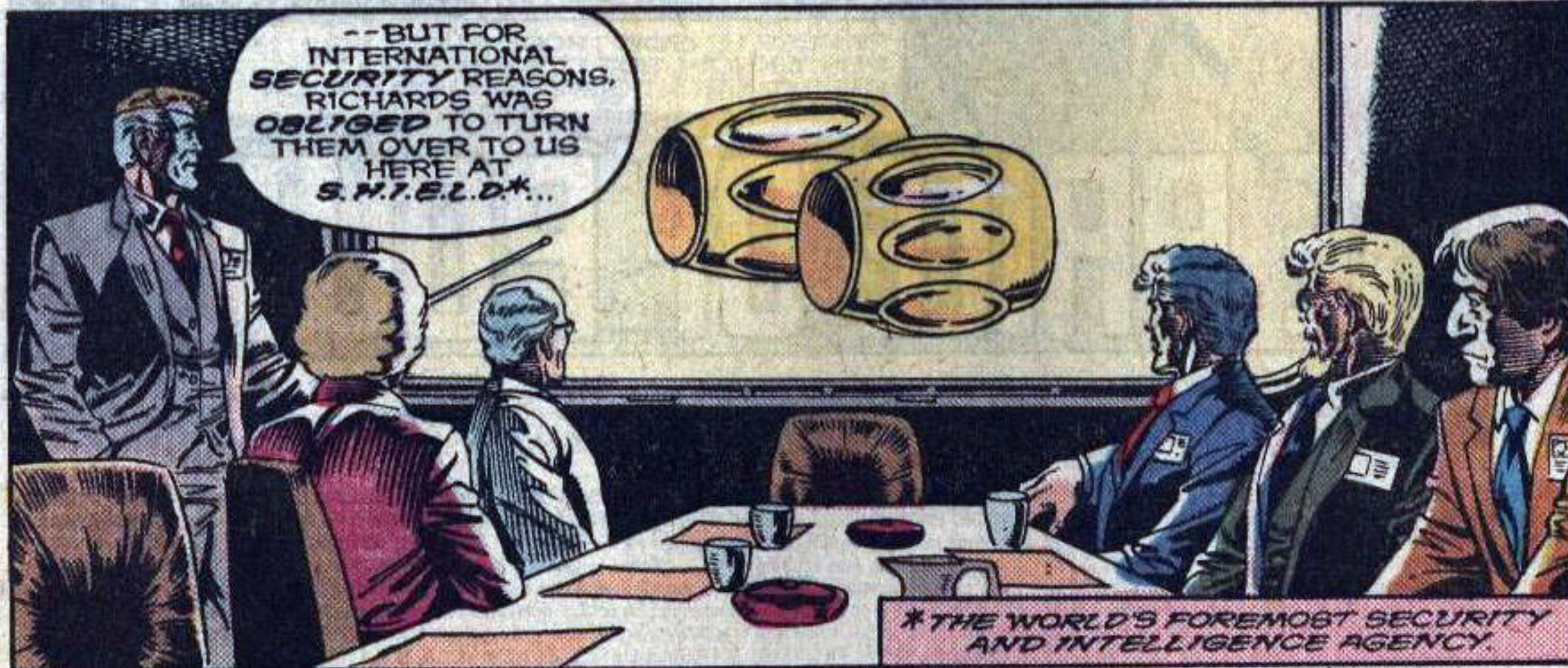
"-- HE WAS NOW USIN' 'EM TO FLY AN' SHOOT **LETHAL SOLAR-BLASTS**.

"UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE **CONTROL** OVER THE **DOOHICKEYS** HE THOUGHT HE DID, AN' WHEN HE TURNED UP THE JUICE TOO **HIGH**--



"-- HE **DISINTEGRATED** HIMSELF.

"THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY **NOTHIN' LEFT** OF HIM--CEPT FOR THE **BRACELETS**.THE **FF'S** HEAD HONCHO,**REED RICHARDS**,CONFISCATED THE THINGS,INTENDIN' TO **TINKER** WITH 'EM--



-- BUT FOR **INTERNATIONAL SECURITY** REASONS, **RICHARDS** WAS **OBLIGED** TO TURN THEM OVER TO US HERE AT **S.H.I.E.L.D.***...

*THE **WORLD'S FOREMOST SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**.



AND THAT'S WHERE YOU **SCIENCE BOYS** AT STARK COME IN...

COLONEL FURY NEED I REMIND YOU THAT MY COMPANY IS NO LONGER IN THE **WEAPONS BUSINESS?**

I'M NOT ASKIN' YOU TO **MAKE** A WEAPON, **MISTER STARK**, I'M JUST ASKIN' YOU TO EXAMINE WHAT SEEMS TA BE SOME KINDA **ALIEN ARTIFACT** AN' LET US KNOW WHAT MAKES IT TICK.

IT'S POSSIBLE IT MAY HAVE SOME DEFENSIVE USES...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, **GILBERT**?



WELL, I'M A BIT **PREJUDICED**, MR. STARK. I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING ABLE TO STUDY MORE **EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL OBJECTS** THAN ANY OTHER SCIENTIST EXCEPT FOR **DR. RICHARDS**...

-- AND I'M ALWAYS EAGER FOR A **NEW OPPORTUNITY**.



I'M CERTAIN MY COLLEAGUES, **DR. ZANE** AND **DR. REZNER** WOULD CONCUR.

THEN WE GOT A **DEAL**, TONY? YOU AND YOUR CREW WILL HAVE A **SIX-MONTH CONTRACT** TO FIDDLE WITH THOSE **FUNKY BRACELETS**.

YES, WE HAVE A **DEAL**, NICK.



GOOD. THEN I'LL HAVE **MR. LEVINE** HERE ARRANGE FER THEIR TRANSFER TO YER **FACILITIES**.



COLONEL FURY, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE AWARE THAT MY SON WAS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING **TRAINING** WITH YOUR AGENCY.

UH, NO, I **WASN'T**, DOCTOR. WHAT'S HIS **NAME**?

WENDELL VAUGHN.

CAN'T SAY I **HEARD** A' HIM. O' COURSE, WE HAVE **HUNDREDS** OF **TRAINEES** PASSIN' THROUGH HERE EVERY YEAR.



IF HE'S ON THE **PREMISES**, AND IT WOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH OF AN **INCONVENIENCE**, I WOULDN'T MIND **SEEING** HIM.

THANK YOU, **COLONEL**.

I'LL HAVE SOME-BODY **LOOK HIM UP** FER YOU.

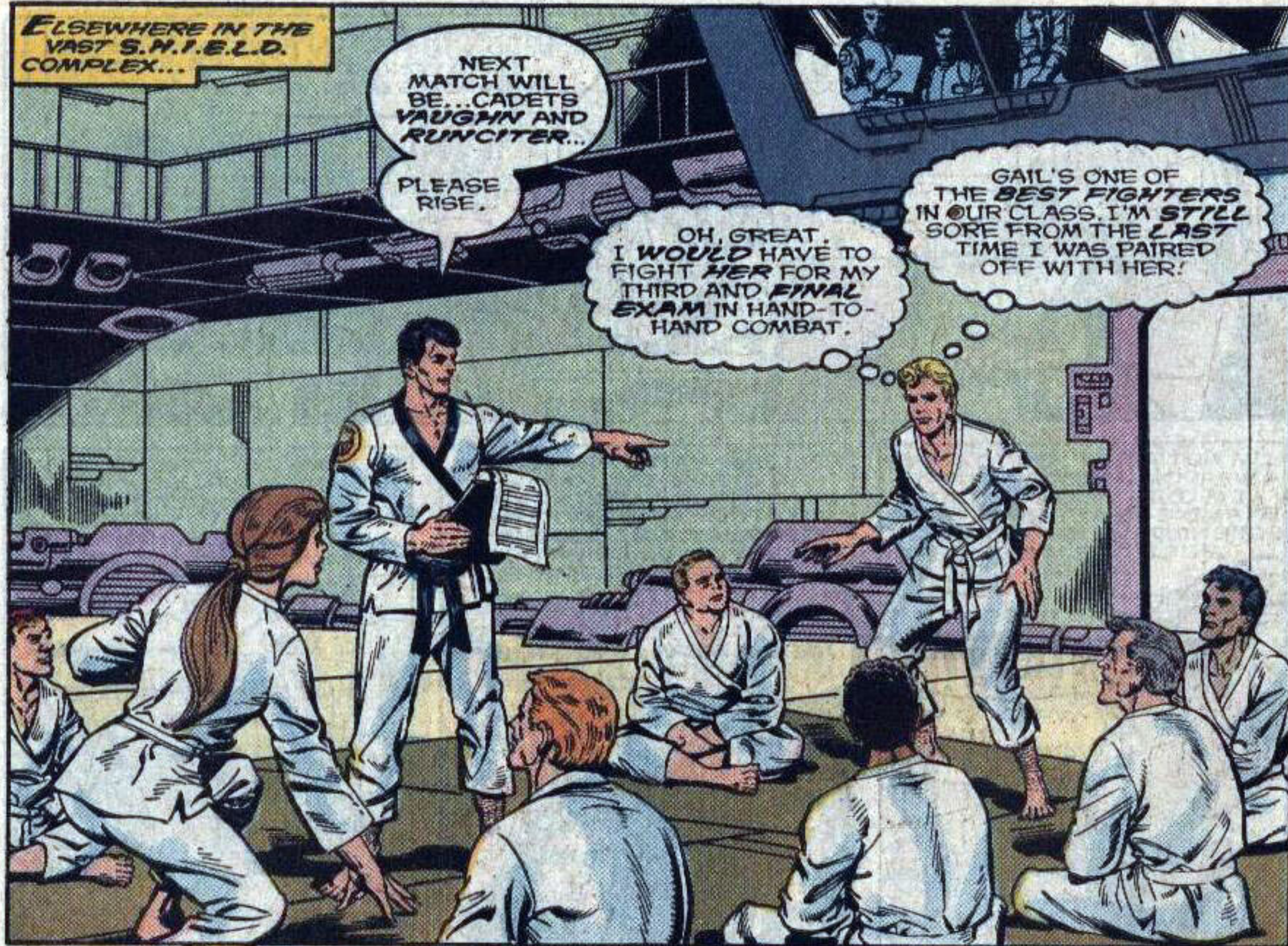
ELSEWHERE IN THE
VAST S.H.I.E.L.D.
COMPLEX...

NEXT
MATCH WILL
BE... CADETS
VAUGHN AND
RUNCITER...

PLEASE
RISE.

OH, GREAT.
I WOULD HAVE TO
FIGHT *HER* FOR MY
THIRD AND FINAL
EXAM IN HAND-TO-
HAND COMBAT.

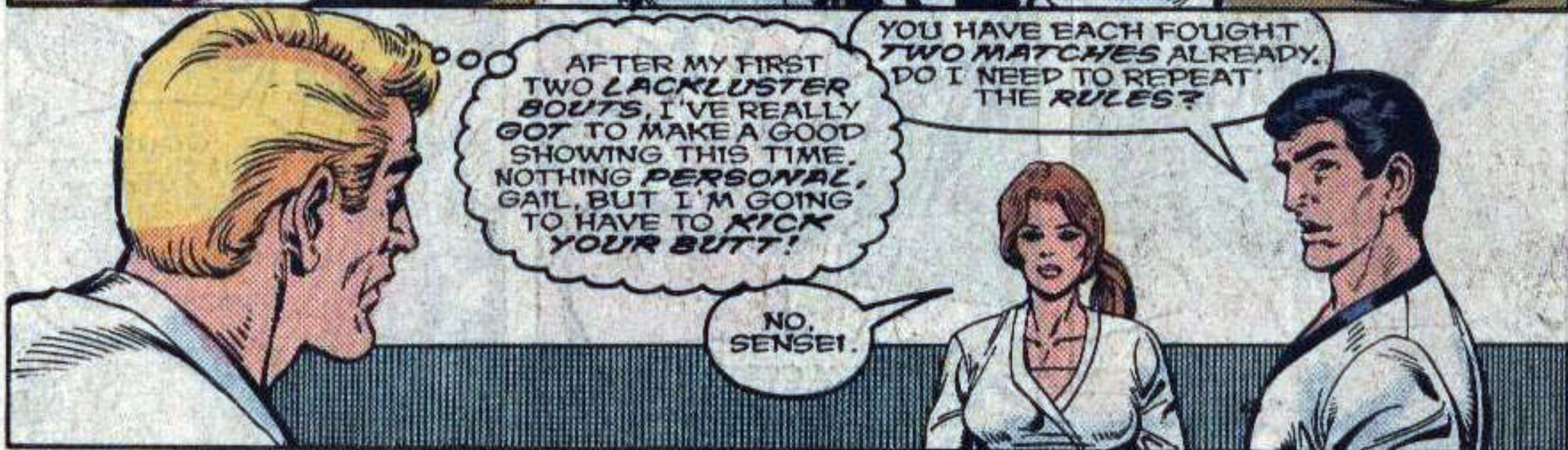
GAIL'S ONE OF
THE *BEST* FIGHTERS
IN OUR CLASS. I'M *STILL*
SORE FROM THE *LAST*
TIME I WAS PAIRED
OFF WITH HER!



AFTER MY FIRST
TWO LACKLUSTER
BOUTS, I'VE REALLY
GOT TO MAKE A GOOD
SHOWING THIS TIME.
NOTHING *PERSONAL*,
GAIL, BUT I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO *KICK*
YOUR BUTT!

YOU HAVE EACH FOUGHT
TWO MATCHES ALREADY.
DO I NEED TO REPEAT
THE RULES?

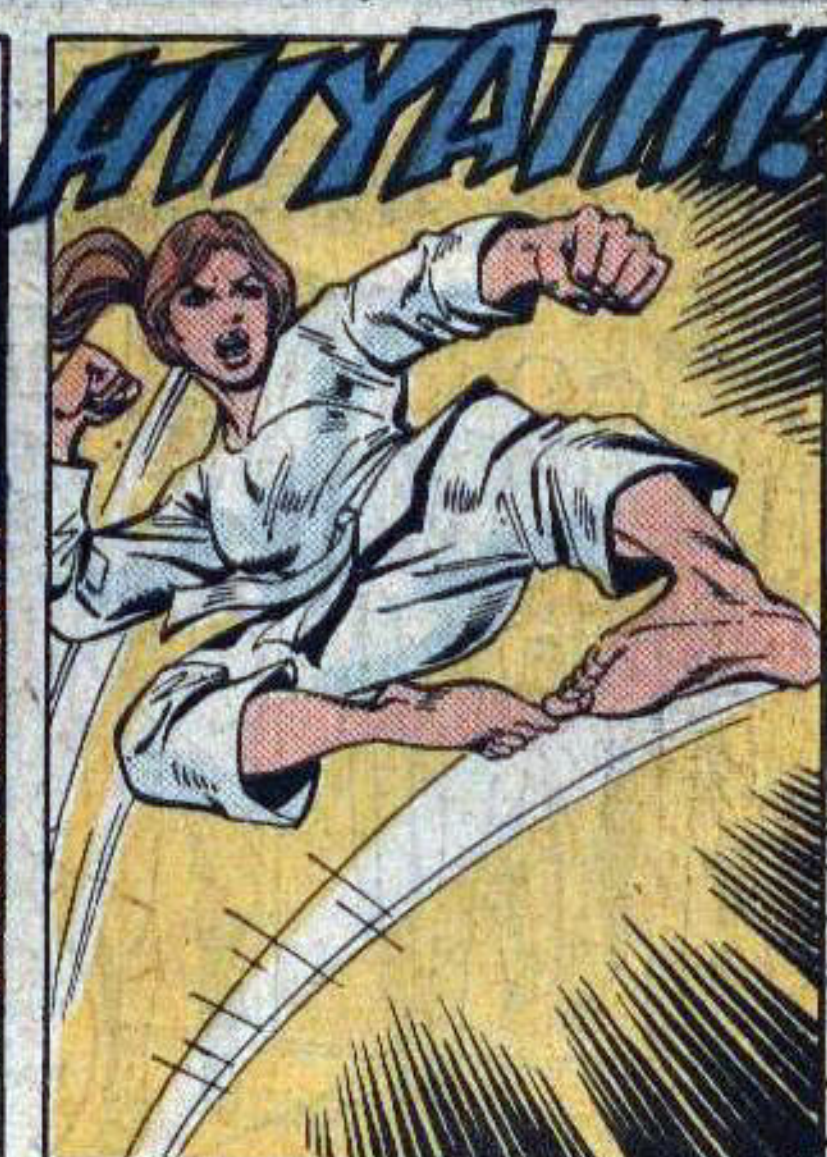
NO,
SENSEI.



VERY WELL THEN.
BOW TO YOUR
OPPONENT--



--AND
COMMENCE!



FLYING SIDE KICK INTO A SPINNING BACK KICK. HER FAVORITE COMBINATION.



I'M READY FOR IT THIS TIME.

I'M BETTER WITH PUNCHES THAN KICKS. LET ME TRY TO STEER THIS LITTLE EXHIBITION TOWARD MY STRENGTHS.



NO! SHE ALMOST GOT ME WITH THAT FLOOR SWEEP. SHE'S GRABBED THE INITIATIVE AGAIN!



AND IN THE OBSERVATION BOOTH...

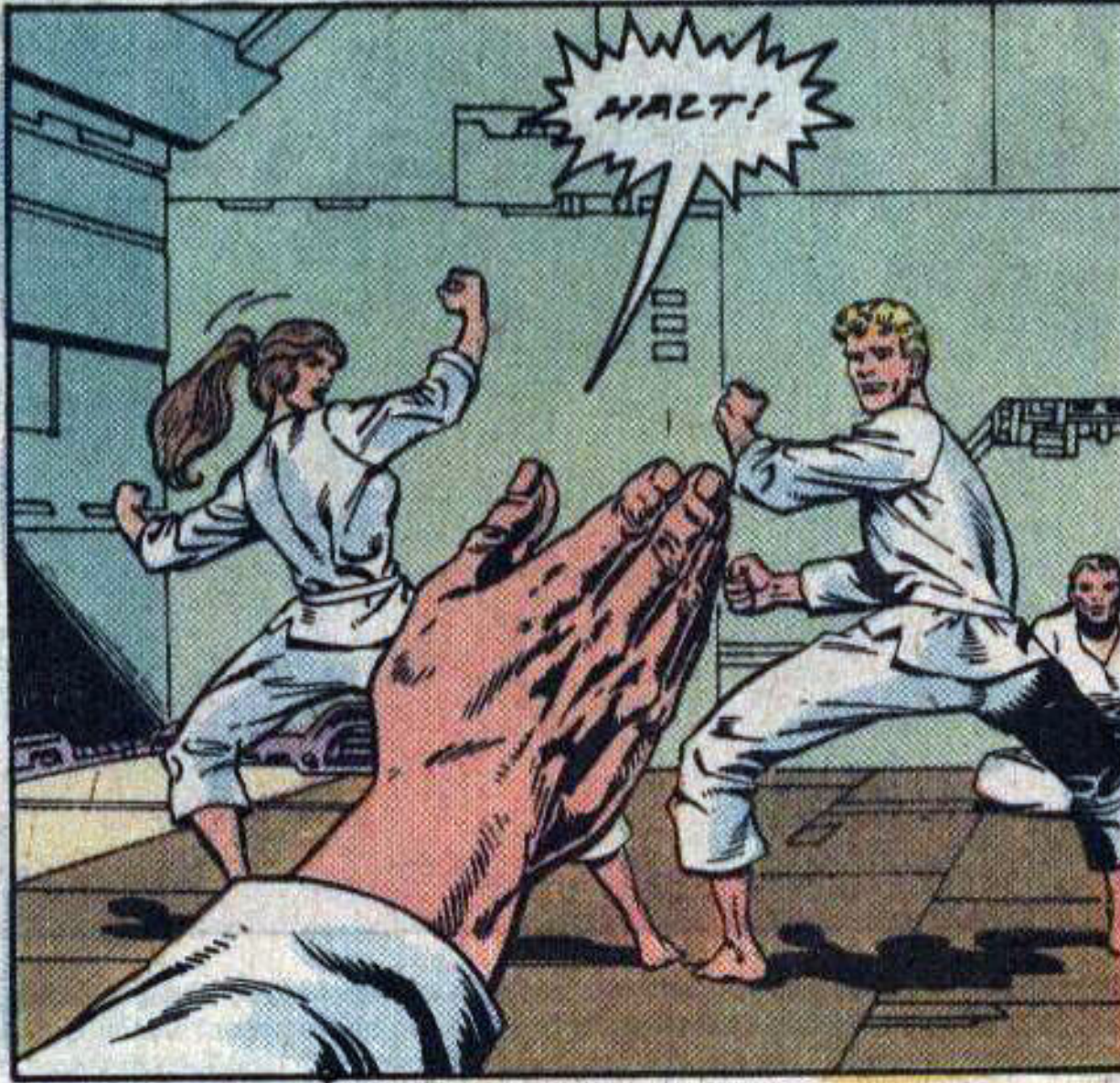
IF YA'LL STEP THIS WAY, DOC, YA SHOULD GET A SQUINT OF YER BOY IN ACTION.



DON'T MIND US, FELLAS. VISITIN' V.I.P.'S.



TALK ABOUT PERFECT TIMIN' HUH?





CHIN UP, SONNY. COMBAT AIN'T ALL IT'S **CRACKED UP** TA BE. TAKE IT FROM A GUY WHO'S **BEEN THERE**.

NOW GO ON, YA GOT A **FURLOUGH**. YA'LL BE GETTIN' YER **FIELD PLACEMENT** IN A WEEK OR SO.

THEY KNOW. THEY CAN ALL SEE THAT I'M A **WALKING FAILURE**.

A DAY LATER, OUTSIDE PITTSBURGH...

INTENSITY UP TO **TEN**, DR. VAUGHN.

STARK
INTERNATIONAL
PA.
NO UNAUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ALLOWED

INCREDIBLE... THEY TAKE THE FULL CHARGE OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL **LASERS*** ON EARTH-- AND NOTHING HAPPENS!

*LIGHT AMPLIFICATION THROUGH STIMULATED EMISSION OF RADIATION.

OUR WORKING **THEORY** IS THAT THE **GEMS** ON THE WRISTBANDS WORK LIKE **BATTERIES**, ABSORBING ENERGY FROM VARIOUS EXTERNAL SOURCES FOR LATER **TRANSMISSION**.

SO FAR THEY'VE SEEMED TO ABSORB **EVERY WAVELENGTH** OF ENERGY OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM WE'VE **BOMBARDED** THEM WITH--

-- BUT STILL WE HAVEN'T THE **SLIGHTEST IDEA** HOW TO GET THAT ENERGY BACK OUT OF THOSE THINGS.

WHEW! WE'VE BEEN WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK SINCE THOSE CRAZY BRACELETS ARRIVED. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE A REPORT DUE FOR A COUPLE WEEKS YET.

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A *BREATH*ER?

GO AHEAD. SOME OF US HAVE A LITTLE MORE *DEDICATION*.

VAUGHN

FUN WORKING WITH A *WORKAHOLIC*, HUH? YOU WANT ANYTHING, REZNEK?

YOU GOT IT.

HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE AWFUL *TUNA SANDWICHES* AND A *DIET COKE*?

RELAX, GUYS. JUST TAKING A *FOOD RUN*. GET YOU SOMETHING?

NO, THANK YOU.

NO ONE IN THE LOUNGE. *PERFECT!*

AGENT T-20 REPORTING IN. "*GOLDEN APPLES*" ARE IN SOUTHEAST LABORATORY BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR. STANDARD SECURITY TEAM. I'LL *SIGNAL* ONCE THEY'VE BEEN TESTED. *OUT!*

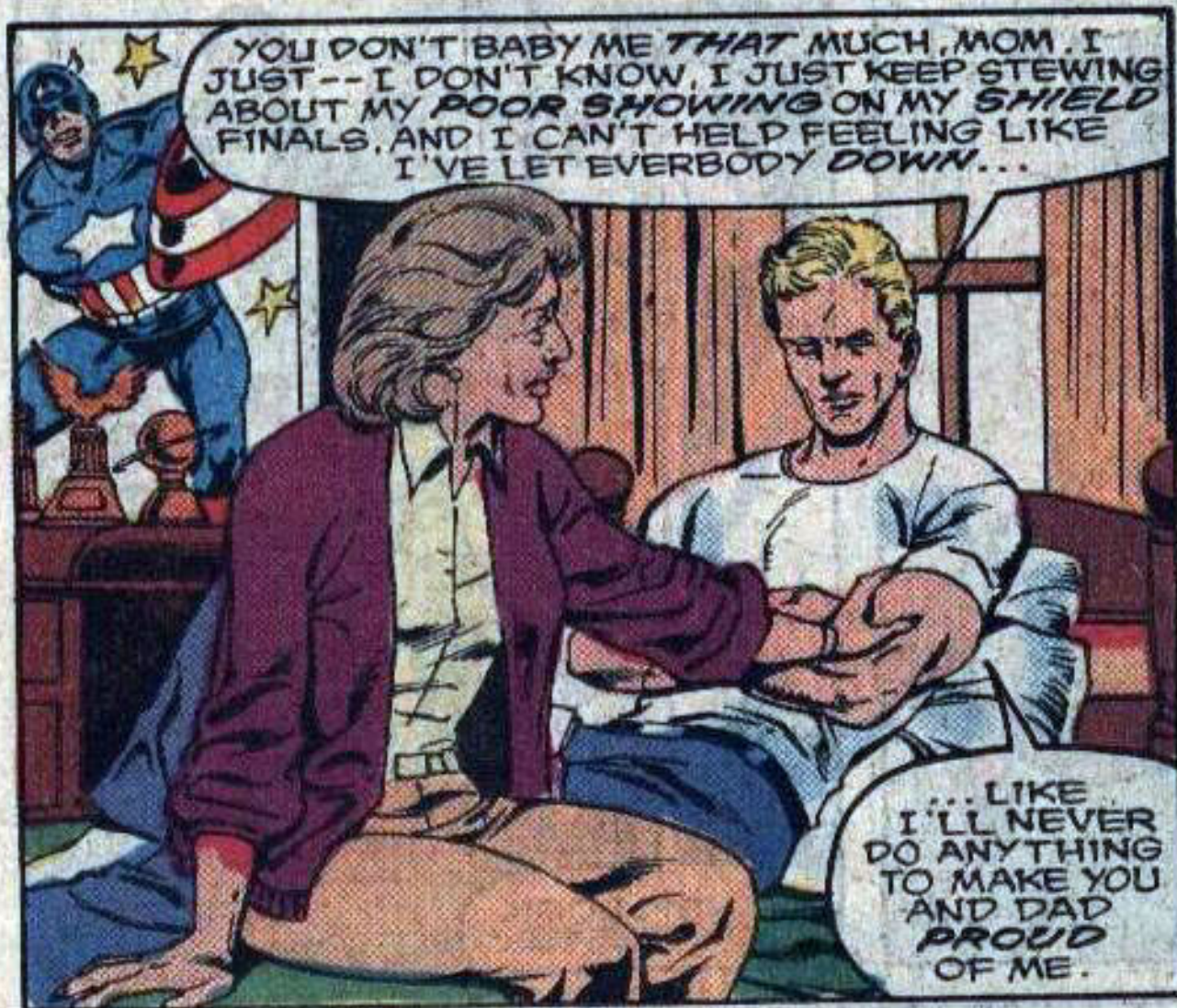
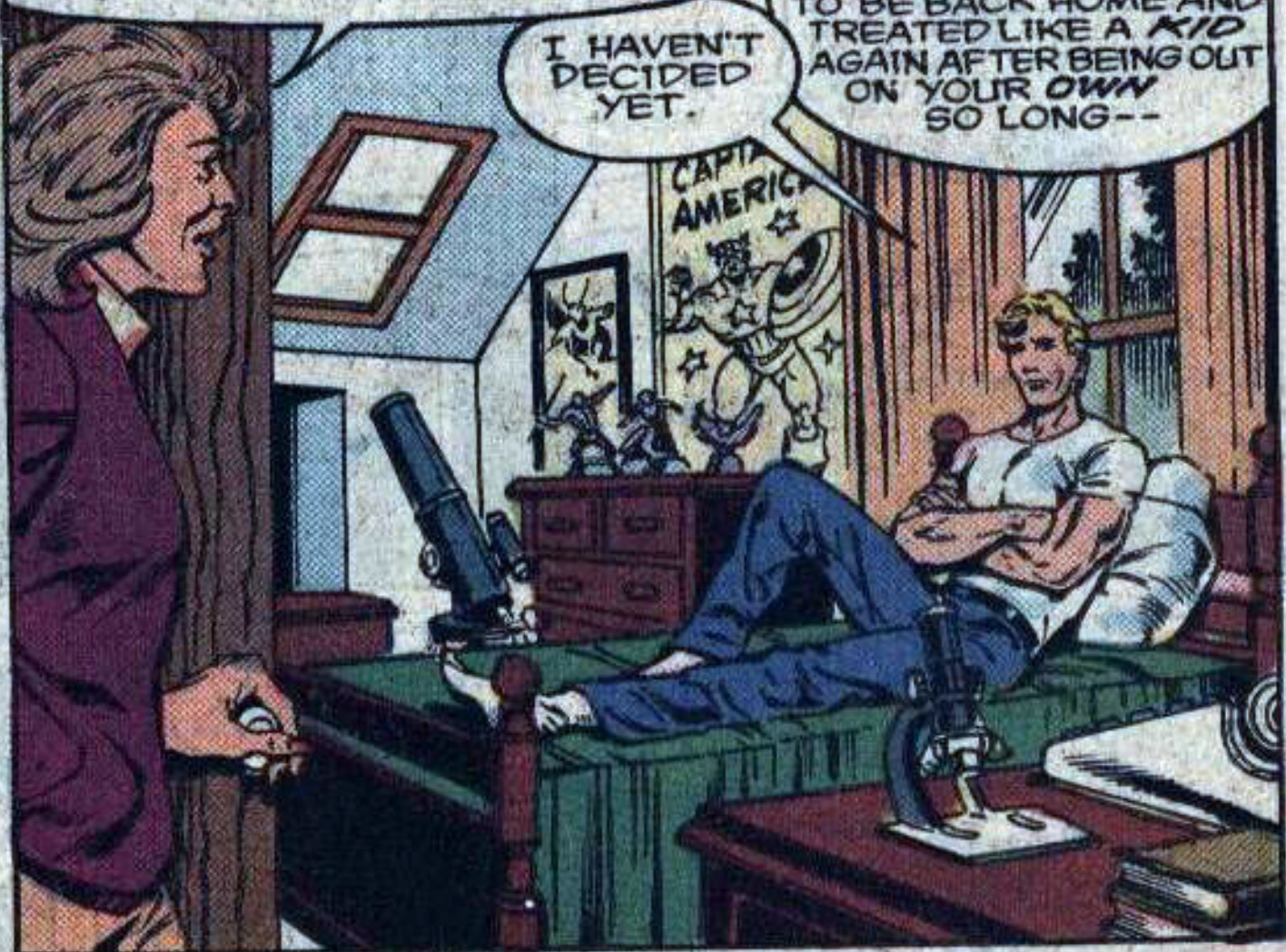
CAN'T RISK MORE THAN A *25-SECOND TRANSMISSION*. NEVER KNOW WHEN STARK'S RENT-A-COPS MAY MAKE A *WIDE-FREQUENCY SIGNAL SCAN*.

OH, GOOD. THEY'VE RESTOCKED *ROOT BEER*.

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, THREE DAYS LATER...



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND ANOTHER WHOLE DAY MOPING IN YOUR ROOM, ARE YOU?



PITTSBURGH,
TWO DAYS
LATER...



AGENTS VAUGHN AND
DONOHUE, FRESH OUTTA
THE ACADEMY, EH? SWELL.
AWRIGHT, HERE'S THE SCOOP:
THE BRAIN-BOYS HERE ARE
GETTIN' READY TO BEGIN
FIELD-TESTING THEIR
WEAP--ER, DEVICES, SEE?

SO WE'RE BEEFIN' UP
SECURITY PERSONNEL
TO KEEP THOSE LITTLE
THINGIES NICE AN' SNUG.

ONCE THOSE BABIES LEAVE
THIS ROOM, YOUR JOB IS
TO KEEP YOUR PEEPERS
TRAINED ON THEM LIKE
THEY WERE CRAZY GLUE.
YOU COPY?



YES, SIR.

HEY, THIS
LAB 44?

NAME'S WESLEY.
I'M A TEST PILOT. I
GOT BUSINESS
INSIDE.



YOUR
AUTHORIZATION
PAPERS?

AND... EXCUSE ME, THERE'S A
WILLIAM WESLEY HERE
TO SEE YOU.



WHO? OH,
YOU MUST BE
OUR GUINEA
PIG.

REZNEK, LOOK
WHO'S HERE!

I'M STANLEY ZANE,
THIS IS MADELINE
REZNEK, AND BACK
THERE IS GILBERT
VAUGHN.



SO YOU'RE
SHIELD'S
TOP TECH-
JOCKEY?

I'VE TESTED EVERY
VEHICLE, WEAPON, BODY
ARMAMENT AND TOOTHBRUSH
SHIELD'S SUPER-TECHIES
EVER TOSSED TOGETHER.



FROM WHAT
I HEARD AT MY
BRIEFING
ABOUT THESE
THINGS YOU'RE
WORKING ON, IT
SHOULD BE A
PIECE OF
CAKE.



LET US
HOPE SO.



SOON, IN AN ADJACENT BUILDING...

DAD STILL HASN'T EVEN NOTICED ME!

OUR PRELIMINARY STUDIES HAVE NOT YIELDED AS MUCH DATA AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, MR. WESLEY. IT IS HOPED THAT OBSERVING THE INSTRUMENTS IN USE WILL PROVE HELPFUL.

READY WHEN YOU ARE, CHIEF.



VERY WELL. SLIDE YOUR HANDS INTO THE TWO INSTRUMENTS.

PIECE OF CAKE.



A-HEY! WHAT'S---?

APPARENTLY SOME SLIGHT DISCHARGE AS THE INSTRUMENTS INTERFACE WITH YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM.

ARE YOU OKAY?



UH, YEAH. WEIRD, THOUGH... IN THE MIST OF THAT LIGHT-SHOW, I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW SOMETHING.

DON'T KNOW SOMETHING BIG, UNBARTHLY...! GUESS I SHOULDN'T'VE HAD SO MUCH PEPPERONI! LAST NIGHT, HUH?



OKAY, AS SOON AS I GET BEHIND THIS SHIELDING, LET'S BEGIN OUR FIRST TEST.

THE INSTRUMENTS WERE OBSERVED TO BE ABLE TO CHANNEL ENERGY THROUGH THOSE JEWEL-LIKE LENSES.

NO KIDDING.

WHAT I'D LIKE YOU TO DO IS CONCENTRATE AND TRY TO GET THEM TO PROJECT A COHERENT BEAM OF VISIBLE LIGHT.



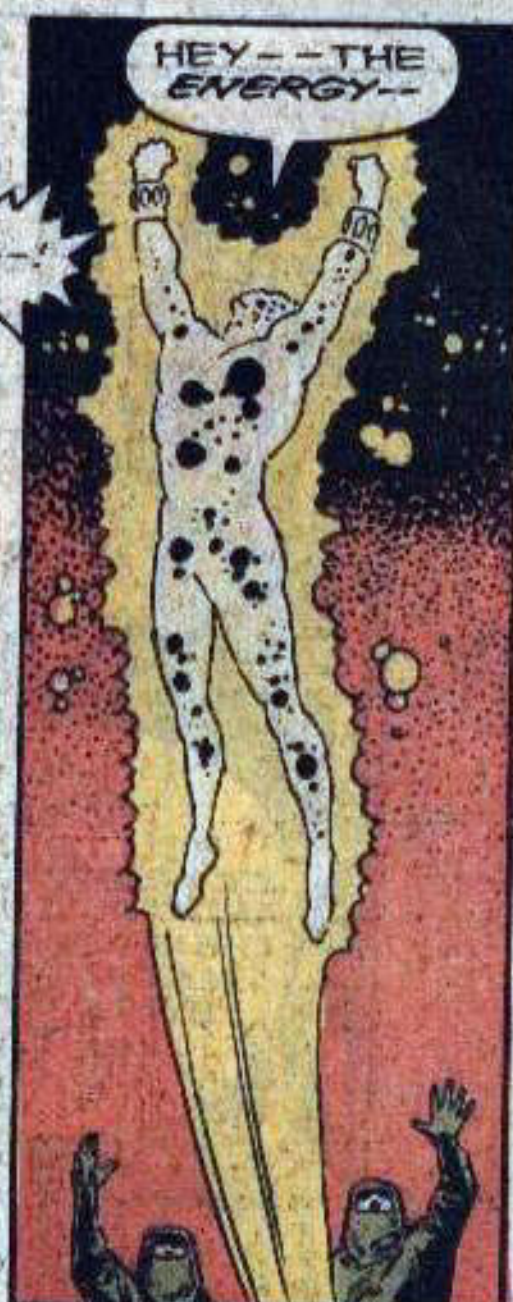
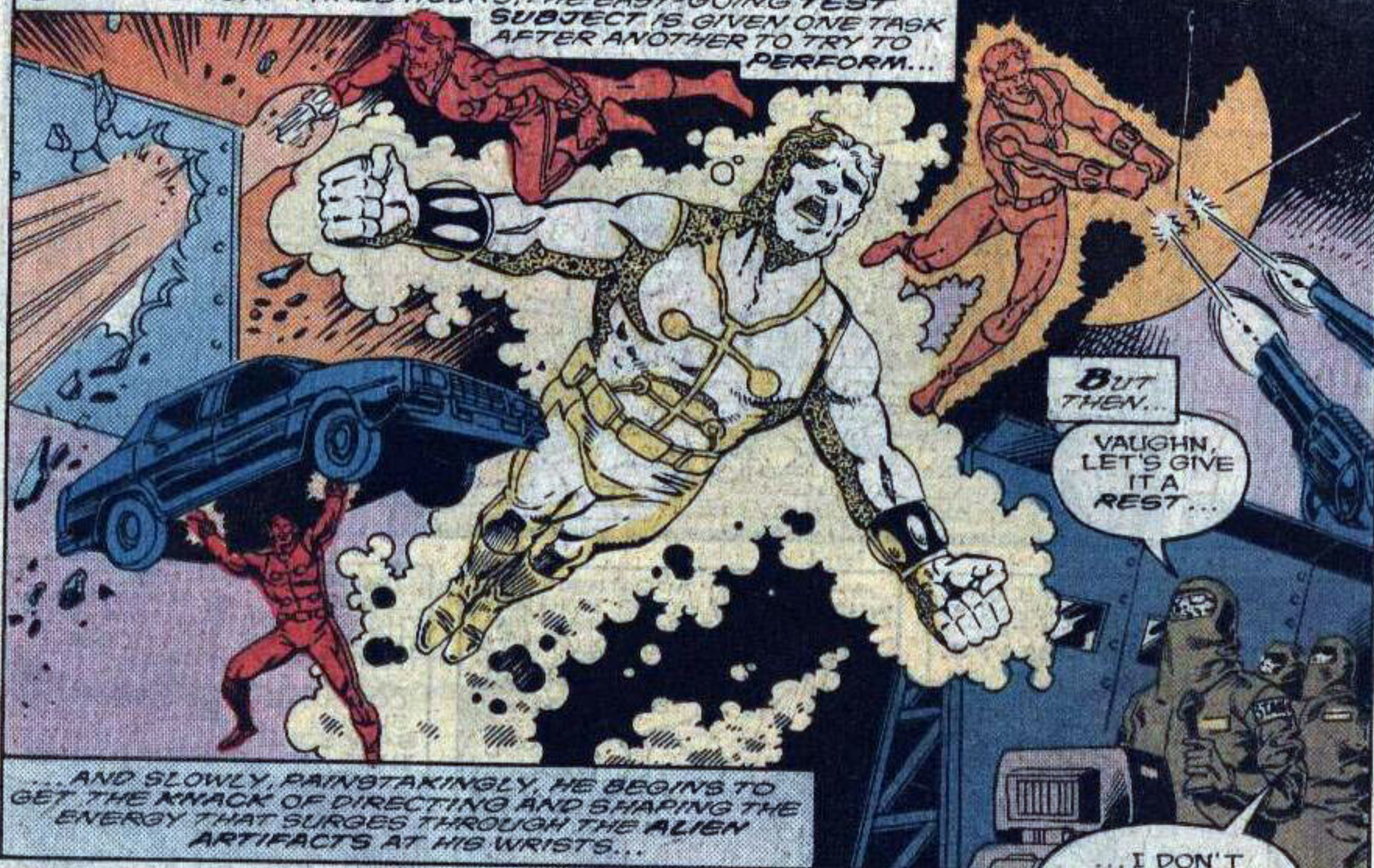
WHATEVER YOU SAY, CHIEF.

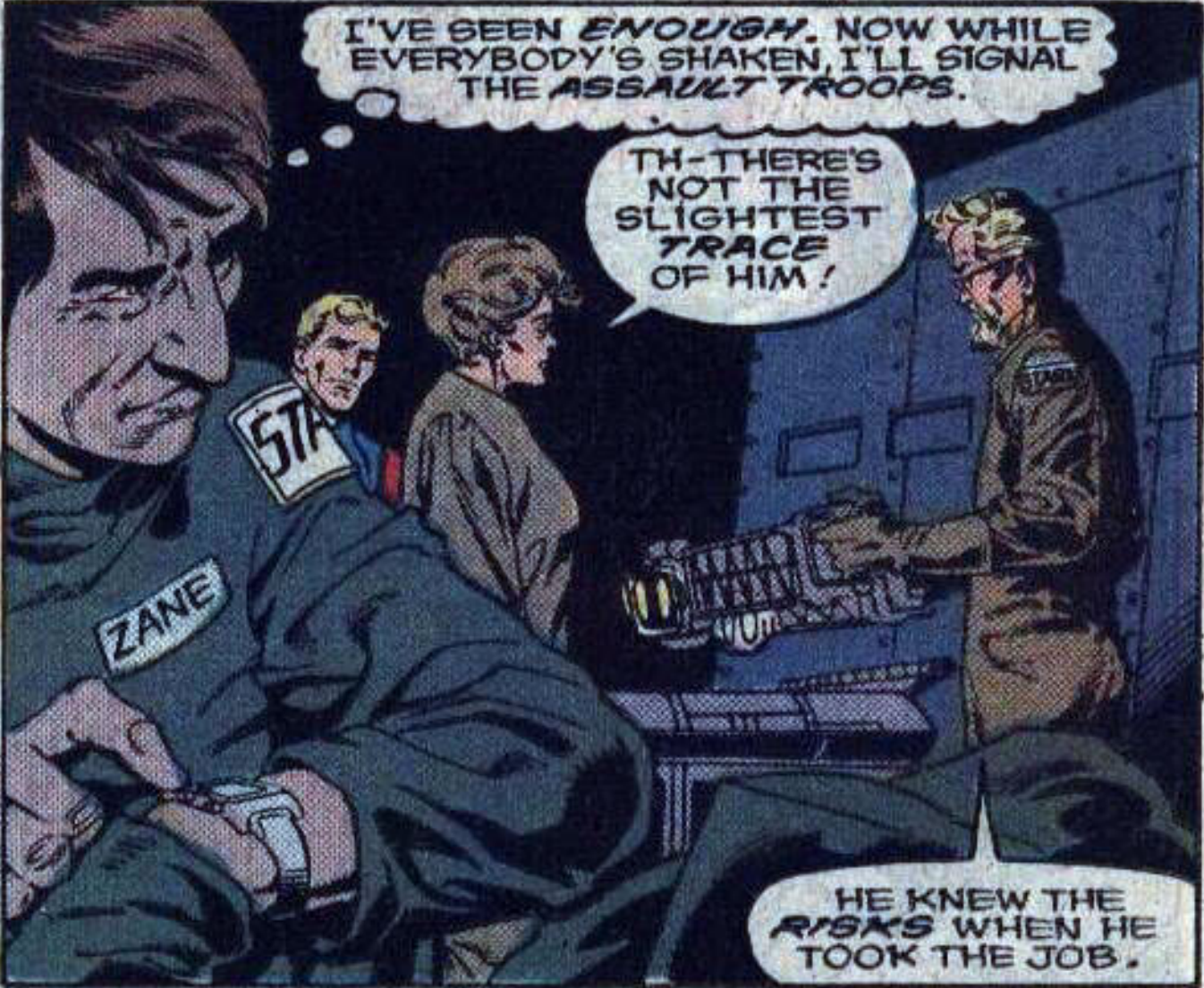
WHOAAA---

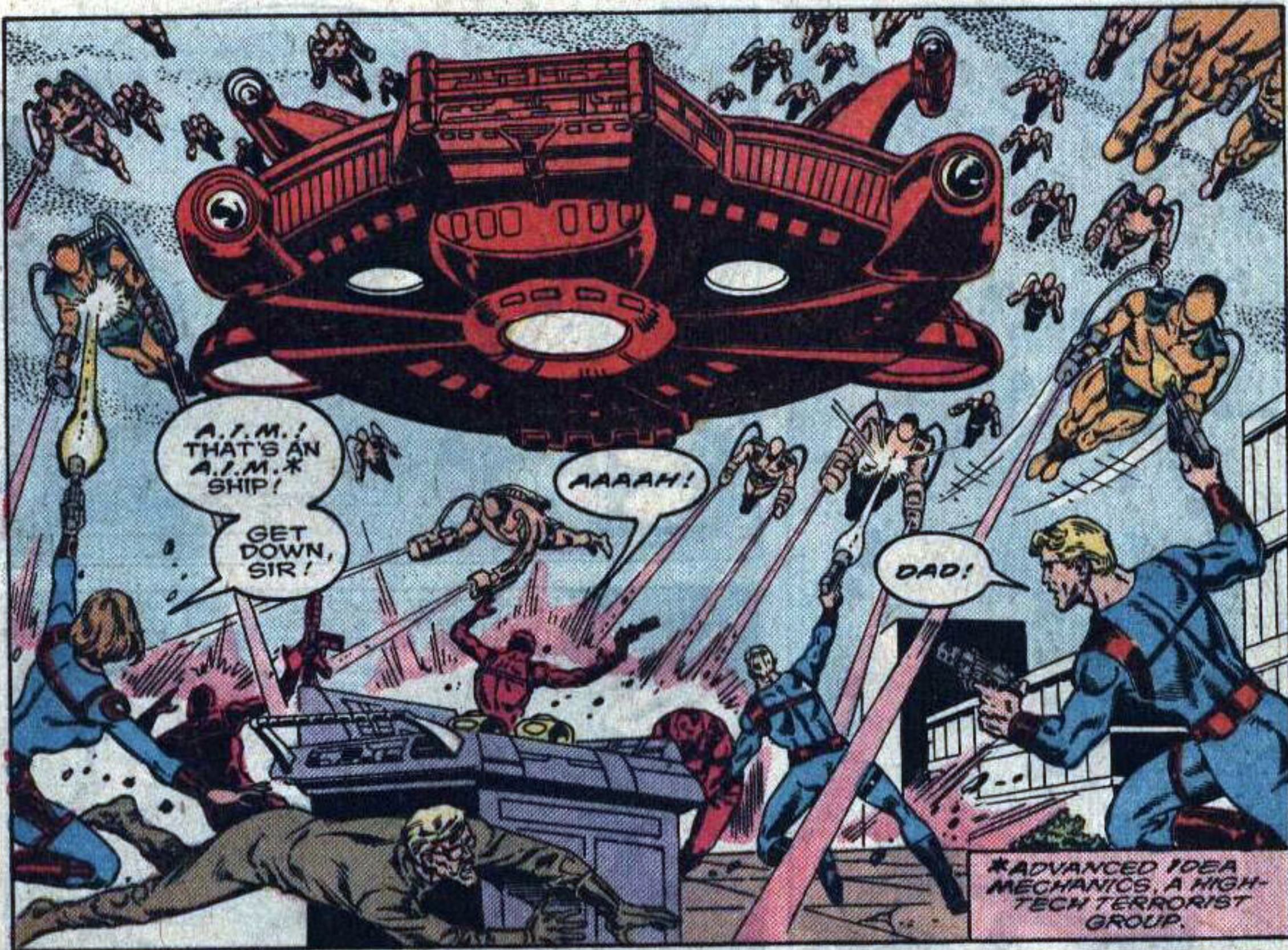


COHERENT, I SAID.

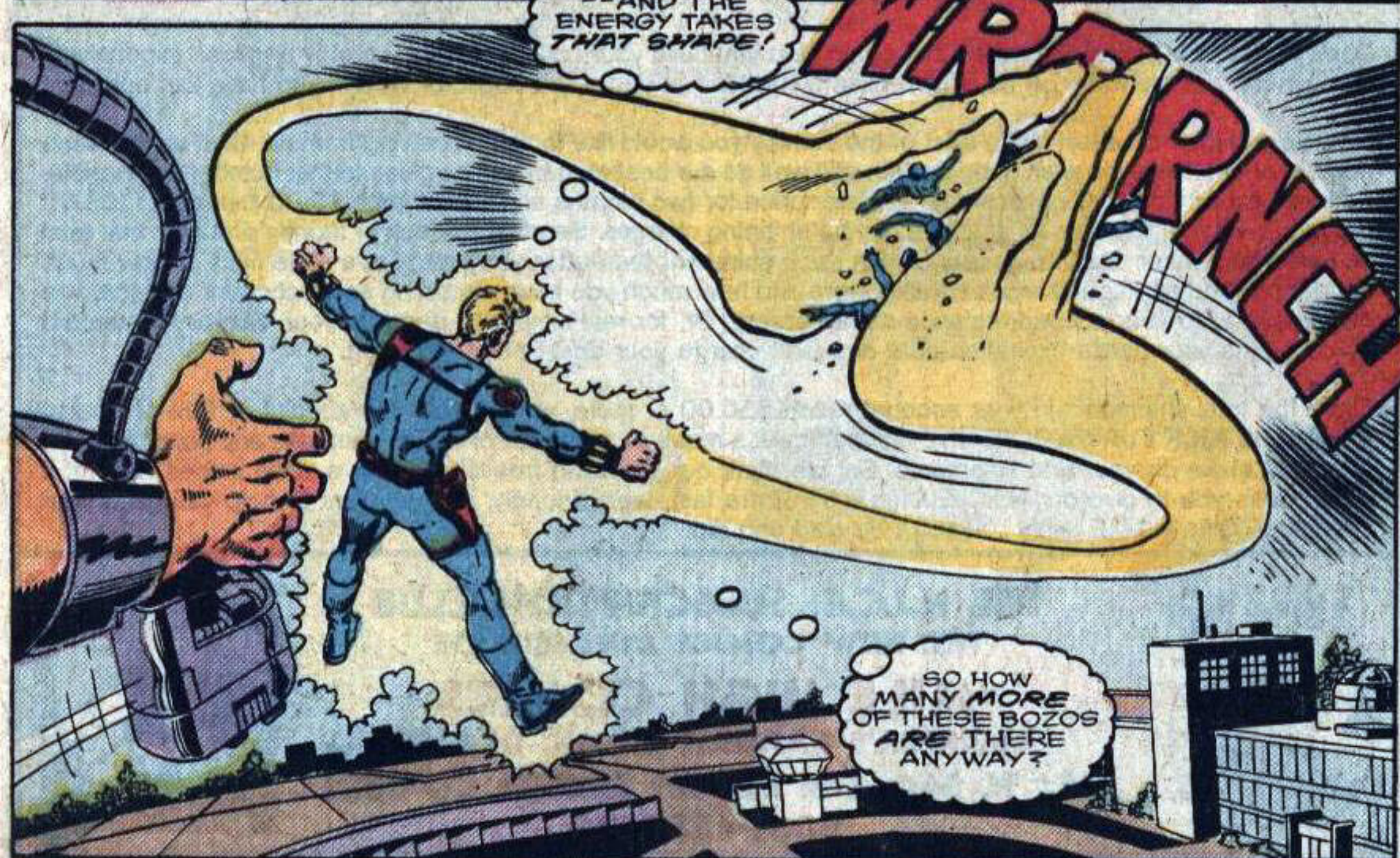
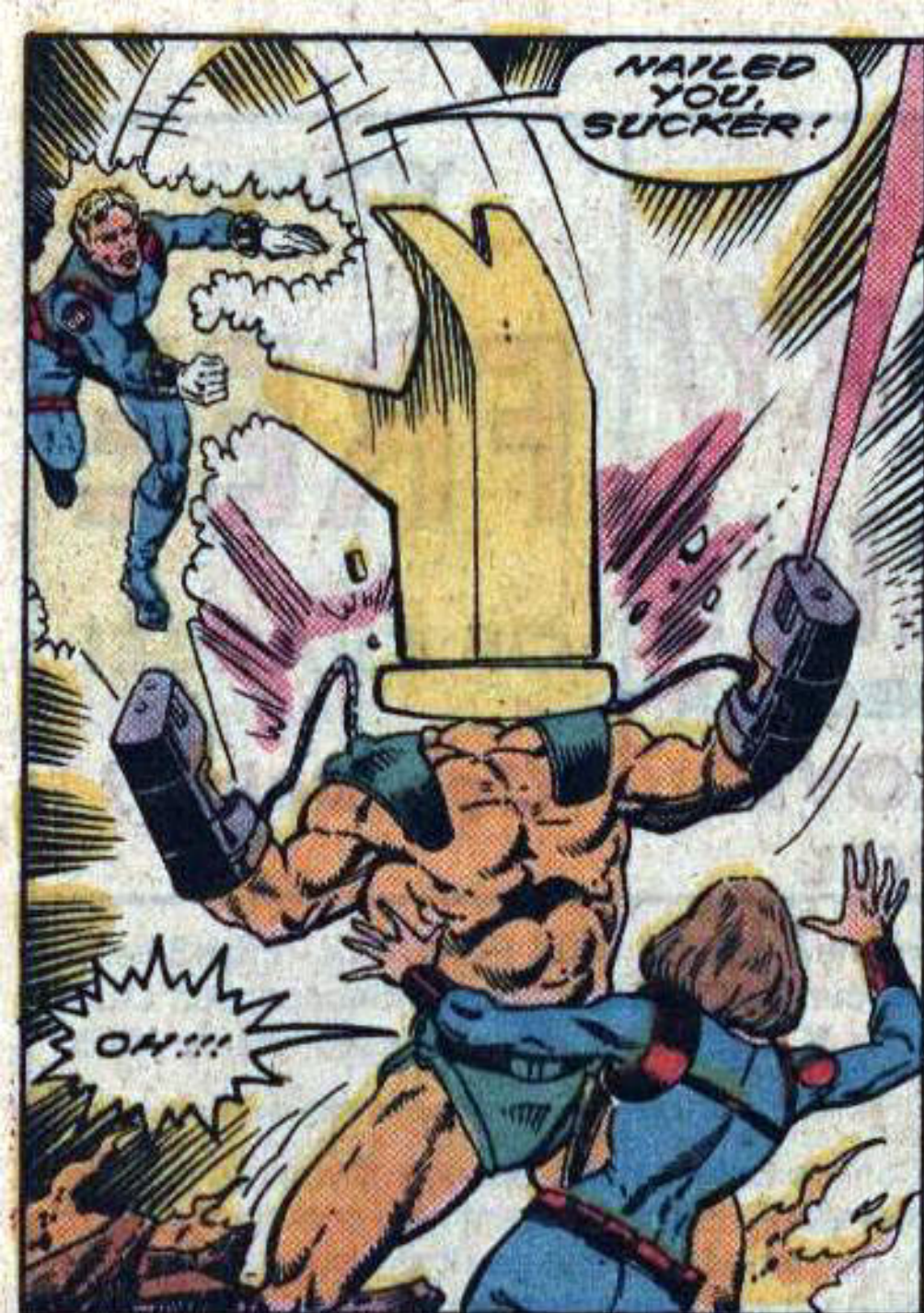
OVER THE NEXT THREE HOURS, THE EASY-GOING TEST SUBJECT IS GIVEN ONE TASK AFTER ANOTHER TO TRY TO PERFORM...











YEOW! DIDN'T SEE HIM
SNEAK UP ON ME!



UH-OH! I
PANICKED FOR A
MOMENT THERE--

-- THE ENERGY--
I FEEL IT DANCING
AROUND ME-- MORE
THAN I KNOW HOW TO
CONTROL!



I-I'D BETTER
BLOW SOME OF IT
OFF QUICK!



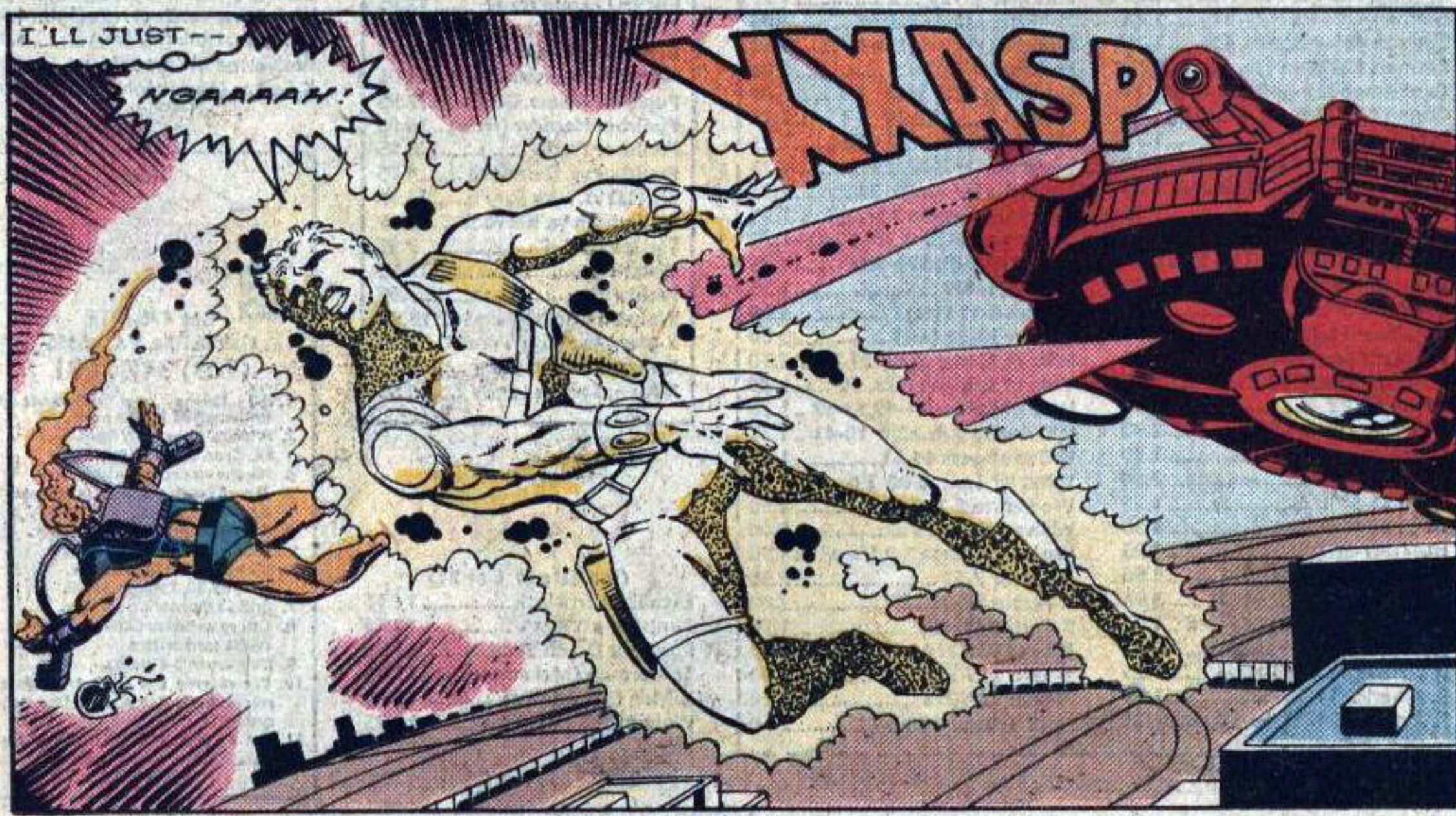
DON'T
WANT TO END
UP LIKE
WESLEY!



HA!!!

OKAY NOW--
LET'S NOT GET
OVEREXCITED.
THERE MUST BE
PLENTY OF WAYS
TO DEFUSE THIS
ENERGY BUILDUP!

I'LL JUST--
NGAAAAH!



YKASPO



WHAT A JERK I AM! THAT ENERGY-BLAST, AS POWERFUL AS IT WAS, DIDN'T HURT! I JUST LET IT STARTLE ME, MAKE ME LOSE MY CONCENTRATION!



STAY BACK! I'M OKAY! DON'T WANT THIS ENERGY AROUND ME TO--TO HURT ANYONE!



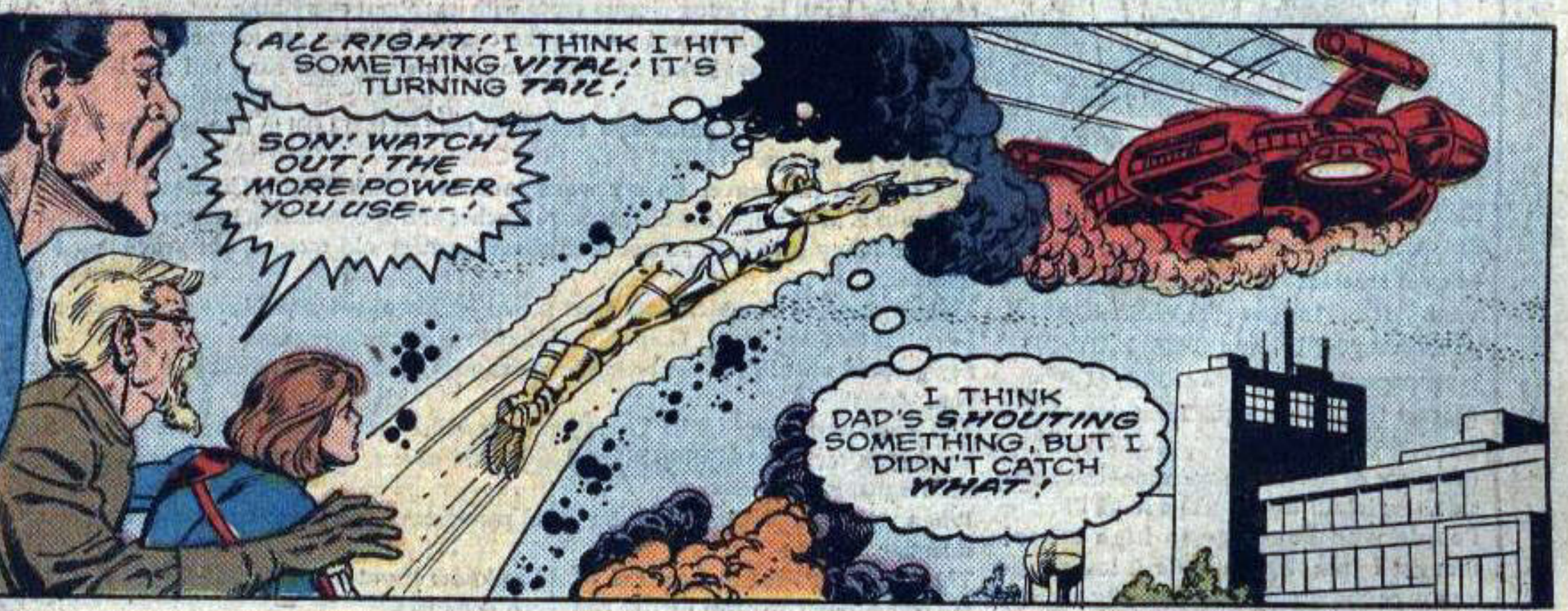
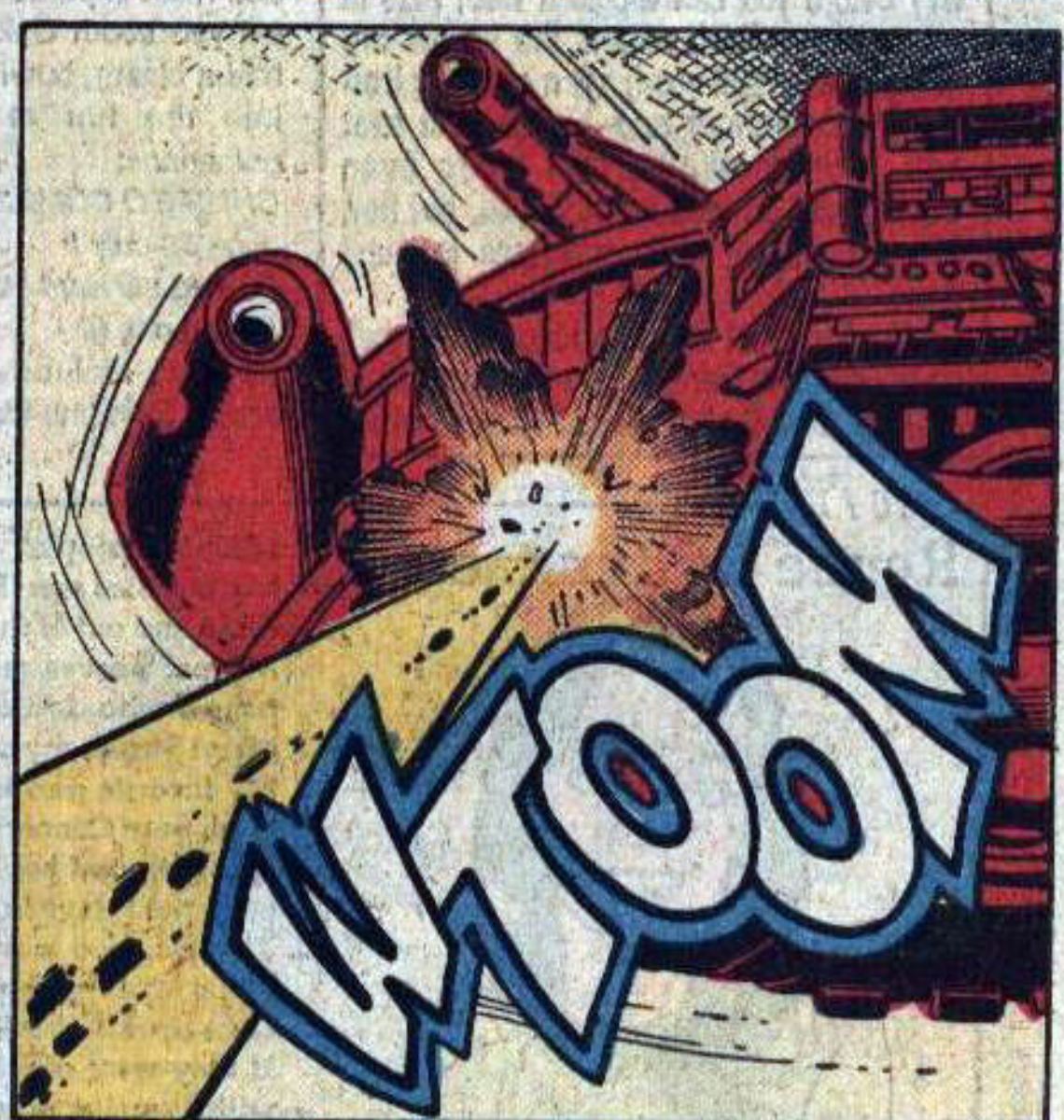
I MOWED DOWN ALL OF THE DROIDS BUT THAT MOTHERSHIP MUST STILL THINKS IT'S GOT A CHANCE TO GRAB THESE THINGS.



AND IF I DON'T USE UP SOME POWER, I'M GONNA EXPLODE--

--AND THE WRIST-BANDS WILL BE UP FOR GRABS!

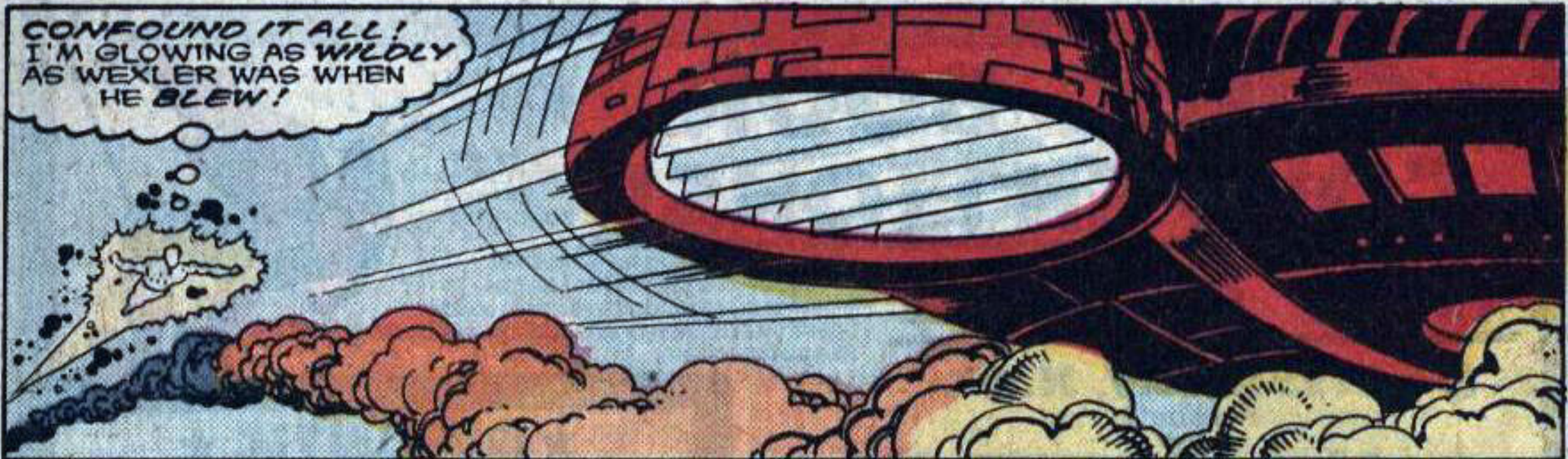
GOTTA MAKE THIS GOOD!



ALL RIGHT! I THINK I HIT SOMETHING VITAL! IT'S TURNING TAIL!

SON! WATCH OUT! THE MORE POWER YOU USE--!

I THINK DAD'S SHOUTING SOMETHING, BUT I DIDN'T CATCH WHAT!

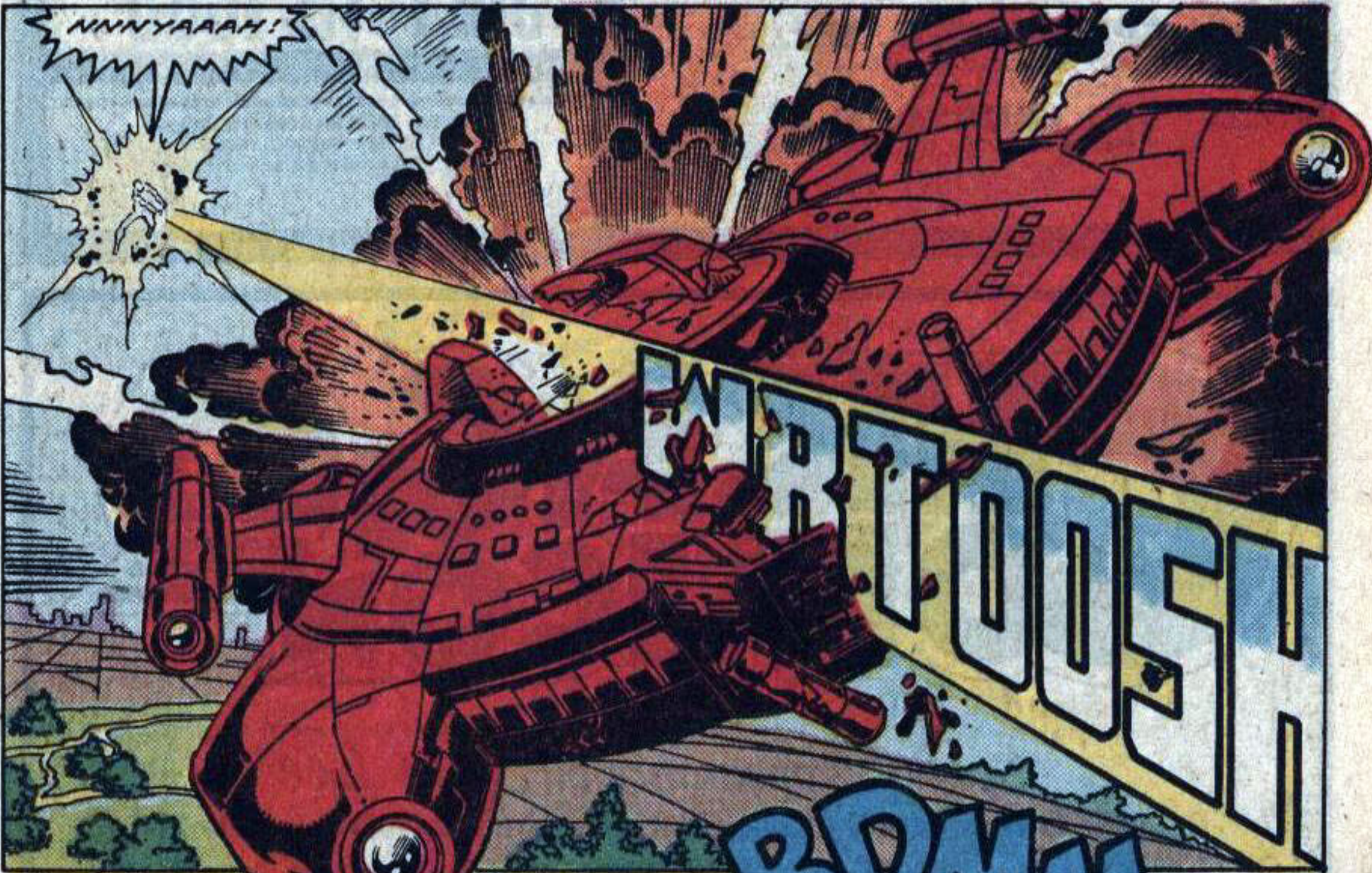


CONFOUND IT ALL!
I'M GLOWING AS WILDLY
AS WEXLER WAS WHEN
HE BLEW!



I'VE GOT TO EXPEND
THE CRITICAL ENERGY--
NOW!

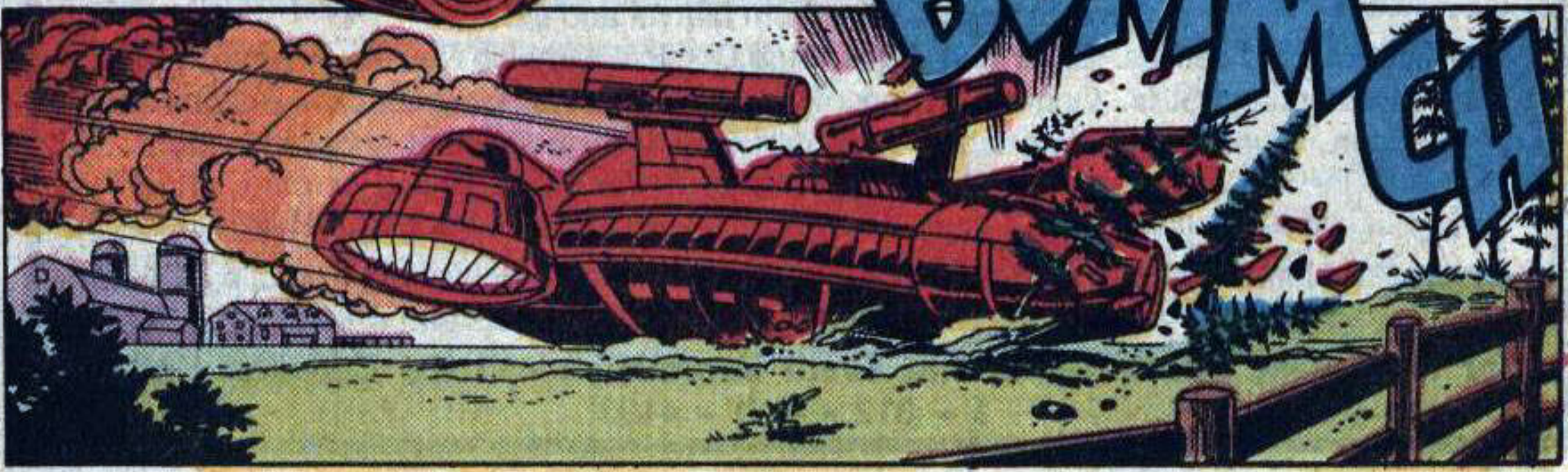
CONCENTRATE...
BLOW OFF ALL I CAN
AT ONCE...!



NNNYAAAH!

BOOM!

BOOM!



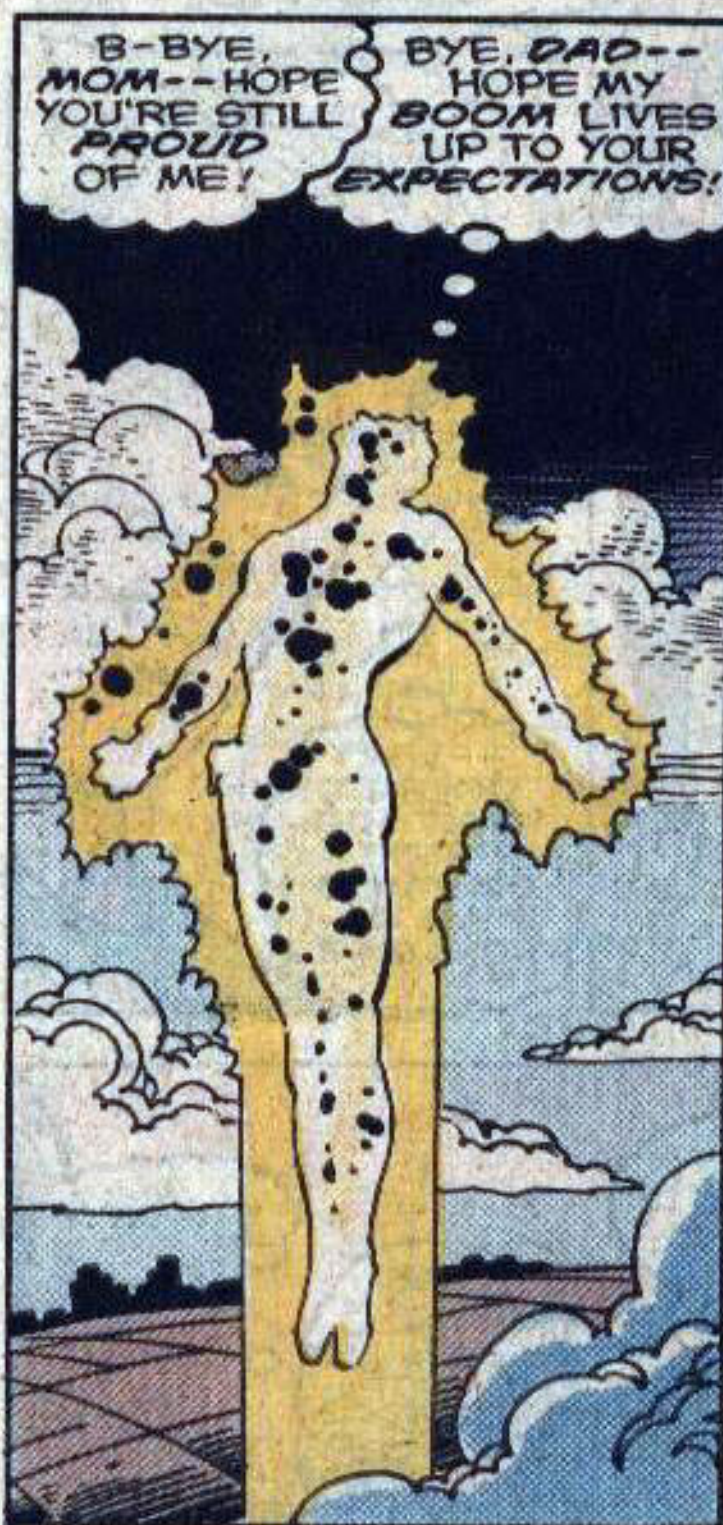


WHA... NO--! I BLEW OFF ALL I COULD BUT I'M--I'M STILL ERUPTING WITH POWER, MORE THAN EVER!

CAN'T HOLD IT IN! FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO--TO--



GOT TO CLIMB HIGHER... DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE--!



B-BYE, MOM--HOPE YOU'RE STILL PROUD OF ME!

BYE, DAD--HOPE MY BOOM LIVES UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS!



MIGHT AS WELL RELAX--IT'LL BE ALL OVER IN AN INSTANT!

WHY FIGHT IT? JUST FLOW WITH IT... RIDE IT... LIKE A WAVE...

MMMM?



THE EXCESS ENERGY BUILDUP--GONE! WHERE? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHY HAVEN'T I EXPLODED?



DID I STUMBLE ONTO THE KNACK OF CONTROLLING THESE THINGS? RELAXING, GOING WITH THE ENERGY FLOW--WAS THAT THE KEY?

WESLEY AND THE ORIGINAL MARVEL BOY... DID THEY PANIC... TRY TO FIGHT THE FLOW? WAS THAT WHAT CONSUMED THEM?

WAS IT MY LACK OF A KILLER INSTINCT, A FIGHTING EDGE, A WILL TO WIN, THAT SAVED ME--??!



I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THESE WRIST-BANDS, WHETHER THEY'RE SAFE OR NOT. I'M GOING TO FLY TO SOME REMOTE UNPOPULATED AREA TO WORK ON CONTROLLING THEM.

NO, SON, DON'T GO! STAY HERE TO RUN YOUR TESTS! LET ME SHARE THIS EXPERIENCE WITH YOU!

IS THIS THE PLEA OF A DISPASSIONATE SCIENTIST--





AS MUCH AS I HATE TA
BREAK UP THIS
TOUCHIN' SCENE--

WHAT--?



COLONEL
FURY!

THEY TELL ME AGENT VAUGHN
HERE REPULSED AN A.I.M. ATTACK
PRET' NEAR SINGLE-HANDEDLY!

WELL,
SIR, I--

KID, I GOT A
PROPOSITION
FOR YOU.



IN THE WEEKS
THAT FOLLOWED,
WENDELL VAUGHN
WAS ENROLLED IN
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S FLEDGLING
SUPER-AGENT PROGRAM
AND GIVEN A FACSIMILE
OF THE ORIGINAL MARVEL
BOY'S UNIFORM...

HIS DAYS WERE FILLED WITH
SPECIAL POWERS TRAINING
IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER
SPECIAL OPERATIVES AND
HIS EVENINGS WERE FILLED
WITH SCIENTIFIC TESTING
IN THE COMPANY OF HIS
FATHER...

BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL HE
LEFT S.H.I.E.L.D.
TRIUMPHANTLY SIX MONTHS
LATER THAT HE STEPPED
OUT OF THE SHADOW OF
HIS COSTUMED PREDECESSOR
AND FORGED A LEGEND ALL
HIS OWN...

...THE LEGEND OF
QUASAR!

**NEXT: THE SECRET
OF QUASAR'S
LOST YEARS!**
**THE STARS,
MY DESTINY!**

